

Attorney Docket No.: 47237-5022-00-US (412785)

Application No.: 10/562,716

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-16. (Canceled).

Claim 17. (Currently Amended): A method of ameliorating liver diseases associated with hepatopathy comprising administering an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid as an active component to a subject ~~in need thereof~~ to ameliorate liver diseases associated with hepatopathy, wherein the subject administers the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid in an amount of (1) 0.001-10 g per day, or (2) 0.001-20 g per 60 kg body weight in 1-3 divided doses daily, wherein the subject is a patient having a liver disease associated with hepatopathy, and wherein the liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute hepatic insufficiency, liver cirrhosis and/or hepatoma.

Claim 18. (Original): The method according to claim 17 wherein said compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is an alcohol ester of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and/or a triglyceride, or a phospholipid having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid.

Claim 19. (Original): The method according to claim 18 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid contains 20% or more of the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid relative to the total fatty acids constituting said triglyceride.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 6,9-

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octadecadienoic acid (18:2 ω 9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2 ω 9) and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (20:3 ω 9).

Claim 21. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is obtained by culturing a microorganism having a reduced or absent Δ 12 unsaturating enzyme activity in a medium, said microorganism being obtained by the mutation treatment of a microorganism belonging to genus *Mortierella*, genus *Conidiobolus*, genus *Phythium*, genus *Phytophthora*, genus *Penicillium*, genus *Cladosporium*, genus *Mucor*, genus *Fusarium*, genus *Aspergillus*, genus *Rhodotorula*, genus *Entomophthora*, genus *Echinosporangium*, or genus *Saprolegnia* and being capable of producing arachidonic acid, and then extracting from said culture.

Claims 22-23. (Canceled).

Claim 24. (Currently Amended): A method of ameliorating liver diseases associated with hepatopathy comprising providing a composition or a food or drink containing an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid as an active component to a subject ~~in need thereof~~ to ameliorate liver diseases associated with hepatopathy, wherein the subject is a patient having a liver disease associated with hepatopathy, and wherein the liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute hepatic insufficiency, liver cirrhosis and/or hepatoma.

Claim 25. (Original): The method according to claim 24 wherein said compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is an alcohol ester of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and/or a triglyceride, or a phospholipid having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid.

Claim 26. (Original): The method according to claim 25 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid contains 20% or more of the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid relative to the total fatty acids constituting said triglyceride.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 6,9-octadecadienoic acid (18:2 ω9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2 ω9) and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (20:3 ω9).

Claim 28. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is obtained by culturing a microorganism having a reduced or absent Δ12 unsaturating enzyme activity in a medium, said microorganism being obtained by the mutation treatment of a microorganism belonging to genus *Mortierella*, genus *Conidiobolus*, genus *Phythium*, genus *Phytophthora*, genus *Penicillium*, genus *Cladosporium*, genus *Mucor*, genus *Fusarium*, genus *Aspergillus*, genus *Rhodotorula*, genus *Entomophthora*, genus *Echinosporangium*, or genus *Saprolegnia* and being capable of producing arachidonic acid, and then extracting it from said culture.

Claims 29-30. (Canceled).

Claim 31. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said a food or drink are functional foods, nutrient supplements, specified health foods or foods for old people.

Claims 32-46. (Canceled).

Claim 47. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 17, wherein the subject administers is administered the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid in an amount of 0.001-2 g per day.

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Claim 48. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 17, wherein the subject administers is administered the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid in an amount of 0.1-2 g per 60 kg body weight in 1-3 divided doses daily.